

REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION

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February 10, 2004

FROM: MARY R. SAWICKI, Director
Department of Aging and Adult Services

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR SERVICES
PROGRAM AND LINKAGES PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Request for Applications to procure personal and health care services for senior and disabled adults under the Multipurpose Senior Services and Linkages Programs, and authorize the Department of Aging and Adult Services to release the Request for Applications.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Federal government and the State of California recognize the need to provide personal and health care services to eligible senior and disabled adults. Funds have been appropriated through the Federal and State governments to the County of San Bernardino to provide these services through programs such as the Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP) and the Linkages Program. The California Department of Aging (CDA) has awarded funds to the County of San Bernardino, Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) to operate the MSSP and Linkages Program since 1985.

The MSSP is designed to prevent or delay the need for long-term institutional care for eligible seniors while continuing to foster independent living in the community. The MSSP provides social and/or health-care case management to Medi-Cal recipients aged 65 or older, who are certified as being in need of skilled nursing care. DAAS' social workers are responsible for coordinating in-home services for MSSP clients that include a wide variety of services such as home chores, personal care, protective supervision, professional care assistance, and respite.

The Linkages program is designed to prevent the premature or inappropriate institutionalization of disabled adults by linking these individuals with the services needed to maintain their independence. The services provided under the Linkages program are similar to those of MSSP, but are available to persons 18 years of age and older, who are at risk of institutionalization.

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These services were last procured through several informal solicitations between 2001 and 2002. The procurements resulted in 45 agreements with various vendors providing a wide variety of services to approximately 4,530 unduplicated seniors per year under MSSP and approximately 160 unduplicated disabled adults per year under the Linkages Program. The current agreements will expire June 30, 2004.

The purpose of this RFA is to create a list of eligible vendors to provide MSSP and Linkages services. Case Managers will use this list to determine who can provide the services in a timely manner. DAAS does not guarantee the number of clients to be served, and all agreements resulting from this RFA will include the standard clause that reimbursement shall be subject to the availability of funds to the County.

Approval of this Request for Applications (RFA) will allow DAAS to formally advertise to the public the County's desire to enlist agencies to provide MSSP and Linkages Program services to seniors and disabled adults throughout the County. The department intends to advertise the RFA through Internet postings, area newspapers, and direct mailings. Services are expected to begin July 1, 2004 and end June 30, 2005, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods. The total amount to be awarded among all successful applicants is not expected to exceed \$360,000 per fiscal year.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by the Senior Affairs Commission on October 15, 2003; HSS Contracts (Lori Ciabattini, Contracts Manager, 388-0253) on January 26, 2004; and the Office of County Counsel (Phebe W. Chu, Deputy County Counsel, 387-4725) on January 12, 2004. The item has been reviewed by HSS Finance (Kristin Letterman, Finance Manager, 388-0330) on February 2, 2004 and the County Administrative Office (Gary Morris, Administrative Analyst, 388-0356) on January 29, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Agreements resulting from this RFA will be 100% funded by State and Federal revenues and are not expected to exceed \$360,000. Adequate appropriations and revenues will be included in DAAS' proposed FY 04/05 budget. The Governor's proposed FY 04/05 budget calls for a consolidation of CDA's appropriation for local assistance into a single block grant with the elimination of Community Base Programs which includes Linkages. However, the proposed budget also calls for using these appropriations to augment service funding for programs authorized by the Older Americans Act, Title IIIB and Title IIIC. Should the Governor's budget pass, the Linkages Program would be funded through the Supportive Services Case Management category within the Older American's Act, Title IIIB.

Cost Reduction Review: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends this action because the contract is 100% reimbursed by State and Federal revenues will not result in any local cost.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS: All

PRESENTER: Mary R. Sawicki, Director, Department of Aging & Adult Services, (909) 891-3917